

Per the Colonel

INSTRUCTIONS



FOR YOUNG

DRAGOON OFFICERS.

By W. TYNDALE,
MAJOR of the FIRST REGIMENT of LIFE GUARDS.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. EGERTON, AT THE
MILITARY LIBRARY, WHITEHALL.

MDCCXCVI.



1609/5790.

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR YOUNG

DRAGOON OFFICERS.

BY W. TYNDAL.

MAJOR GENERAL, REGIMENT OF LIFE GUARDS.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. EGERTON, AT THE

MILITARY LIBRARY, WHITEHALL.

MDCCLXXVI



(vi)

particulars as your Lordship has kindly
conferred to give it your protection.
I am well aware that your Lordship's
superior reputation in Military Affairs
will add weight to any merit the book
may possess; and I hope that at no
future time you will regret the pro-
tection you have conferred on it.
Allow me thus publicly to express
the grateful sense I have of this and the
many obligations I owe to your Lord-
ship, and to assure you it never will be
forgotten by me.

FROM zeal, and a desire
to serve, as far as my abilities will ad-
mit of, my King and Country, I ven-
tured to offer to the Public "INSTRUC-
TIONS for YOUNG DRAGOON OFFICERS;"
it met with so flattering a success that I
am induced to hazard a second edition,
parti-

particularly as your Lordship has kindly consented to give it your protection.

I am well aware that your Lordship's superior reputation in Military Affairs will add weight to any merit the book may possess; and I hope that at no future time you will repent the protection you have afforded it.

Allow me thus publicly to express the grateful sense I have of this and the many obligations I owe to your Lordship, and to assure you it never will be forgotten, by,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's

most obedient

and devoted

W. TYNDALE.

Major of the 1st Regiment of
Life-Guards.

CHAP. I.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

BEFORE I enter on the matter contained in the following pages, it will be necessary to give the young military reader some idea of the internal management and œconomy of a regiment, more particularly of its discipline. A little experience will convince him, that it is with the various parts of military discipline, as with the different links of a chain; the breaking of any one is attended with worse than confusion—the whole is immediately rendered useless. It is therefore absolutely necessary, that an implicit obedience be observed to all superior officers; thus, the private soldier must obey the orders of the corporal, who must likewise submit to those of the sergeant, and he again to the subalterns; and so on, from rank to rank, to the general.

A regiment is always commanded by the officer of superior rank. It is divided into

B

troops

troops or companies, commanded by captains. These are again divided into squads, the command of which is given to the different non-commissioned officers, who are answerable for the appearance and conduct of them; and if they perceive any irregularities, they report them to the subalterns, who again report them to the captains.

The duty of the non-commissioned officers is to visit the stables of their respective squads. Should any dragoon be absent, or drunk, to report him to the quarter-master; whose immediate duty is the care of the horses, the accounts of his troop, and other things, which shall be mentioned in their proper places. He is also to visit the men's rooms, to see that they keep their arms and appointments clean; to inspect their messes, reports of which are given weekly to the commanding officer. This is the chief TROOP DUTY of the non-commissioned officers.

The TROOP DUTY of the subalterns is to command and inspect the non-commissioned officers and their squads; to attend to the feeding, shoeing and physicking of the horses. Once a week, if not ordered oftener, each subaltern should go round to the men's quarters; inspect their rooms, arms and appointments; inquire how the men behave and conduct

conduct themselves; report the quality of the hay and stable; also any irregularities he may have seen, to the officer commanding the troop. This is the principal duty for officers in their troop.

CHAP. II.

Of the REGIMENTAL DUTY of SUBALTERN OFFICERS.

A PAROLE, or watch word, is given out commonly every day; as are also the orders of the commanding officer, and the detail of the duty of the regiment. The adjutant delivers out the orders, and keeps a register or list of the officers' names, that he may readily see who stands first for any duty ordered. This list is called a *Roster*.

The officers on the usual daily duty, are as follows:

B 2

Orderly

Orderly officer.
 Orderly quarter-master.
 Orderly sergeant.
 Orderly trumpeter.
 Officer
 Sergeant
 Corporal
 Trumpeter

} for guard.

Captains are frequently for duty, such as guard, picket, and sometimes orderly; but in quarters they are seldom for guard duty.

The orderly officer's duty, is to be always ready to attend the commanding officer, at a minute's warning; to visit the sick men and horses; to parade, and dismiss all detachments, escorts, &c. In case of fire, he should be ready to run to the place with the first men he can collect together; and whenever the alarm is sounded, to run to the commanding officer's quarters, to receive his orders. He should never be out of boots and spurs, but ready to mount his horse at a moment's notice.

The officer of the guard, the sergeant, and trumpeter, are always to remain with their guard till relieved.

CHAP. III.

Of the QUARTER-MASTER and his
DUTY.

THIS is a most useful officer; and were it not for the duty done by the quarter-master, a subaltern's would be very severe and disagreeable. To fill this post properly, he should be an active, decently educated, honest, sober man. He should be able to do the adjutant's duty, if required; for in our service, when a regiment is dispersed, as it is frequently nine months together, there is seldom more than one troop at a quarter, except at the head quarters, where may be two or three troops, and a detachment of all such men, who from ill behaviour, or awkwardness, are assembled there as well as recruits. It is therefore absolutely necessary, that the quarter-master should be sufficiently capable of drilling the troop, lest it return to the regiment in a worse condition than it left it. He is also the proper person to transact the account business of his troop; to purchase

the forage, and, in short, every article wanted by the dragoon or horse. He is also the officer sent to secure, and bargain for grass, for those horses that are to be turned out. In executing this duty, he ought to be particularly careful, and to state the exact quantity of the grass, with the convenience or inconvenience of the watering places, and the state of the mounds.

Thus having pointed out in the shortest and best manner I can, the several duties of the subaltern officers, to whom this book is addressed; I shall proceed to lay down, in a plain matter, such instructions, as will enable them, with a little attention, to perform with ease, all that duty which must otherwise be learnt at drills.

CHAP. IV.

THE first object of every good soldier or officer is discipline, without which no regiment can possibly be called *good*. And this is only to be effected by an implicit obedience to superiors, and a strict attention to duty: I therefore recommend it to every young gentleman, on his entering the army, to apply himself to learn his business, which once learnt will prove very entertaining. A few weeks attention will, if he applies, make him master of it. He should learn, not only to put the soldiers through the manual exercise, but should perform it himself, in order the better to judge how the men acquit themselves. He should learn also to tell off a squadron, to salute, and take his post on parade. These things known, when appointed to a troop, he should be particularly attentive to that troop; visit the men's quarters at least once a week, and minutely inspect their necessities and appointments, and see that they keep their rooms or tents clean, which is absolutely necessary for their health. He should be very attentive to learn to ride, the good effects of which he will feel, when he takes his post in squadron.

CHAP. V.

Of the private PARADE, &c.

THIS is a parade for the troop you belong to, half an hour before the *General*. The intention of it is for the officer to inspect minutely the arms and dress of each man, that if any should be drunk, or improperly dress'd, or not clean, he may confine him, and report him to the commanding officer. The method of parading is as follows. Give the word,

ATTENTION!

Call the Roll.

This is a list of the troop. Every man must be present, or accounted for. You proceed,

Rear Rank, to the Left Face.

March.

When the right flanker of the rear rank is opposite the left flanker of the front rank, say,

Halt.

To the Right, Turn.

Eyes Right.

This

This brings your rear rank up to the front, and you have a rank intire.

Open your Pans.

Slope your Arms.

You now easily examine every man's lock.

Carry your Arms.

Shut your Pans.

Fix your Bayonets.

Draw your Ramrods.

As you come opposite each man, he drops the ramrod into the piece, which if foul will not ring clear.

Unfix your Bayonets.

Shoulder your Arms.

You now proceed to examine the men's dress, and wait till the *Assembly* sounds: You then form the troops in two ranks, and march to the general parade. *Note*, The men for guard should march in your front, with arms advanced.

THE PARADE.

A regiment of dragoons, whether mounted or on foot, is always divided into squadrons of

of three troops each, as for example; a nine troop regiment has three squadrons, viz. *viz.*

Right
Centre } Squadron.
Left }

A squadron* is likewise divided into three parts. The right squadron consists of

On the right, the King's, or
Centre, lieutenant colonel's } troop.
Left, the fourth captain's }

Centre Squadron.

Right, the third captain's
Center, senior captain's } troop.
Left the sixth captain's

Left Squadron.

Right, the fifth captain's
Centre, the major's
Left, the second captain's

} troop.

* The author was, at the time he wrote this part of the Book, a subaltern in the King's Dragoon Guards, which was a nine troop Regiment, and drew up in the form here mentioned.

The

The captain & lieutenant commands the King's, or general's troop; the other troops are commanded by their respective captains, and the field officers' troops by lieutenants.

The regiment being drawn up in the before-mentioned form, the commanding officer gives the word,

PARADE!

This is a caution. The adjutant should go to the Right of the regiment and dress it; which done, the next word is,

ATTENTION!

After this word, no man should move head nor eye, till the next word of command,

Rear Rank, take open Order.

The man on the right of the rear rank should then step back two long paces, and face to the left, his right arm being extended to shew he is the flanker. The next word is,

Quick March.

The whole rear rank then runs back, and dresses to the flanker. The officers come out two paces to the front. The sergeants fall back two paces in the rear, and quarter-masters

masters two paces in the rear of the sergeants. Every officer and man should be perfectly steady.

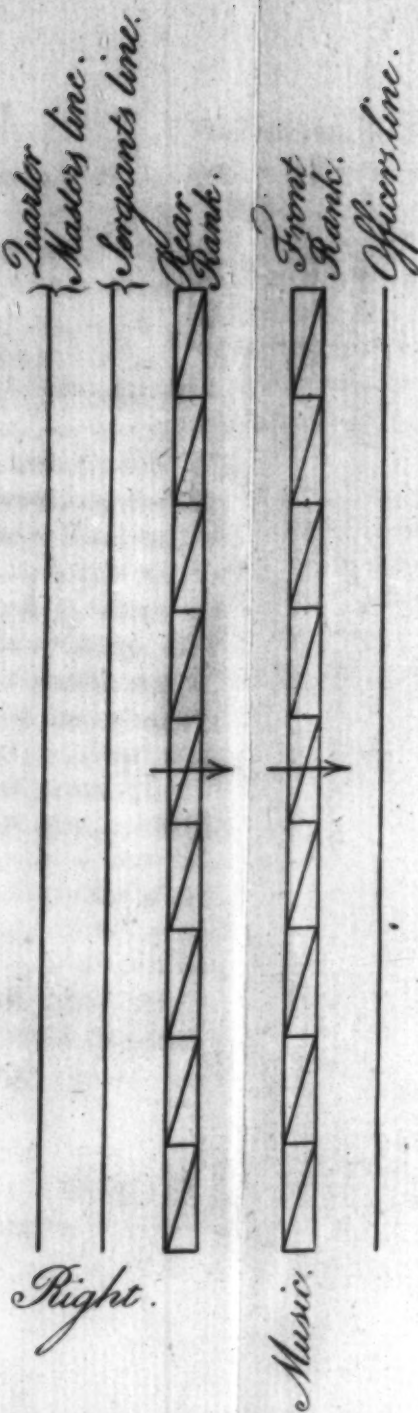
This done, the guard (which is paraded by the officer for the day on the left of the regiment) is ordered to march off; the mode of doing which, as also of parading, will be shewn in another place.

The guard marched off the parade, the commanding officer orders the ranks to close to the front or rear, when the officers fall back into their intervals, and he dismisses them by facing to the right or left, or by wheeling the troops, or any manœuvre he pleases.

Plate I.

A Regiment Drawn up, with Ranks open.

N.B. When you are to Receive the General your Music should be on the Right of the Regiment.



thus in the front when on a common Morning Parade.

CHAP. VI.

How to parade, and march off the Guard, and to relieve the old Guard.

THE Guard, as I before said, is paraded or examined by the officer for the day, in the same manner as your private parade, except that you first should size your guard, by putting the tallest men on the flanks. The guard is drawn up in one entire rank. This finished, you tell the guard off into two divisions, of which the second is to form the rear rank. When in one rank, the men stand, arms advanced; the *Troop* is then sounded, on which the officer comes to the front of the guard, four paces from the front rank, and gives the word,

Shoulder your Arms.

He faces to the right about. When ordered to march off, he gives the word,

*Guard, by two Divisions, to the Right, Wheel.
March.*

He salutes the commanding officer, and when clear of the parade,

Quick

*Quick March.**

When he comes within twenty paces of the guard he is to relieve,

Halt.

March.

To the Front, Form.

Halt.

The officer of the old guard, as soon as the new is formed to the front,

Old Guard, present your Arms.

New Guard, present your Arms.

The officers salute, and receive the report, parole, &c. Sergeants do the same in the rear.

Old Guard, shoulder your Arms.

New Guard, shoulder your Arms.

The corporals then number the guard, and take off the relief. When they return with the sentinels, the old guard marches off in slow time, the new guard presenting arms to them. When they are clear, the new guard take up their ground, and you remain till relieved.

* It is understood, that when not ordered to *march in quick time*, the word *March* implies ordinary or slow time, 75 steps, 32 inches each, in a minute.

INTRODUCTION

TO

M A N Œ U V R E S.

THE foregoing part of this work is intended to instruct the young officer in the part of his duty required in quarters: it is equally necessary that he should understand the business of the field; this is generally learnt by continual practice; but from not comprehending the principles on which the different manœuvres are made, it is a long time before an officer can possibly be expected to be master of it. Let the cleverest man of any other profession be put to the command of a squadron or a division, the technical terms necessarily made use of by the exercising officer to make known his orders, would appear to him an unintelligible jargon; but when once the officer is perfectly acquainted with the principle on which a few of the most difficult columns are executed, which are so very easy and clear, that they
are

are within the comprehension of the most uncultivated mind, he will find that he can not only execute any manœuvre whatever, with the greatest facility and exactness, but may, with a very little attention, soon qualify himself to exercise a regiment.* The author has therefore selected a set of manœuvres, which he hopes will fully answer the purpose before alluded to; to each of which he has, to the best of his abilities, given instructions for the execution of it, and an explanatory plate.

There is no profession whereof the elementary principles are so much neglected as ours; because they are so few and so easy that almost every young man, on entering the army, sets off with an idea, that with his regimental coat, and cocked hat, he has acquired all that is necessary to make him a complete sol-

* The first thing to be done before the regiment leaves the parade, mounted or not, is to tell it off, that is, to subdivide each squadron into a number of divisions, in order to give the mass sufficient flexibility to turn in as short a space as possible, that like a snake, it may be able to twist and turn itself through any defile, or any other obstructions.

N. B. A regiment of cavalry consists of squadrons, an infantry regiment consists of battalions, which are told much in the same manner as a squadron, though not into so many parts as the unwieldiness of the horse renders it necessary to have in a squadron.

dier;

dier; he, in time of peace, never sees more than one regiment at exercise together; consequently, by not endeavouring to obtain some information of the nature of the movements of an army, his ideas are confined, and never carry him beyond the limits of his regimental parade.

It frequently happens, that one officer and a small party are detached from head quarters to small towns, where there is no society with which a gentleman can mix: thus situated, how many vacant hours must he necessarily pass tediously. Books, drawing, or music, are the only resources in bad weather; and when fair, these can be varied only by riding or walking. One half hour in the course of each day devoted to the study of the elements and rudiments of his profession, would in this case deliver him, for some time at least, from feeling so disagreeable and tiresome a sameness: And should he be in gayer quarters, the reading of a professional book whilst under the hands of his friseur would, in my opinion, relieve that tedious operation, and he would, at the same time, make some progress in acquiring knowledge which will be of use to him.

Tactics are generally dry and heavy; so the study of every art or profession appears to a beginner; but how infinitely more fatiguing

is the study of the law, and of almost every other art, compared to ours. A man of sense may, with little attention, soon become a good officer: I do not mean to say it is easy to obtain or to equal the abilities of an Eugene, a Marlborough, an Erskine or a Moira. A strong mind, quick eye, clear head, and speedy determination how to act, when unforeseen or unfortunate events occur, are accomplishments, which, however great, experience always improves, and can alone bring forward.

Many things necessary for an officer to be acquainted with, besides what is contained in the subsequent pages, might be learnt, and which, had they not been so well treated by the authors who have wrote on those subjects, I should have endeavoured to explain. They have, however, handled the matter in a manner very superior to what I am capable of; I shall, therefore, only recommend them earnestly to the attention of all officers: they are "Pleydel's Field Fortification," and "The Partisan."

Of the first—though proper persons, trained to the profession, are appointed Engineers; and though in no service they excel the British; yet there are situations, where an officer may be called upon, (either from the nature of the post he is sent to occupy, or from

circumstances, which may take place since the arrival of the party in the post; and also to prevent being surprized, when an attack is suspected to be made on the cantonments or quarters,) to defend himself and party against a superior force. This can only be done by putting the post in a good posture of defence; and as it is impossible to send engineers with every picquet, or to every post, the personal safety of the officer and his men requires that he should have sufficient knowledge of fortification to improve every advantage of the ground he occupies.

A few lessons in Trigonometry would facilitate and increase the pleasure of studying Mr. Pleydel.

Of the second, "The Partisan,"—this author is very entertaining, several little military anecdotes being introduced; he expands the mind on the subject of the profession of a soldier, and gives the best idea of war, particularly what is called *la petite guerre*.

In short, the two above named authors should be read very frequently by every gentleman who wishes to make a figure in his profession.

I have, in a succeeding chapter, endeavoured to point out in as forcible a manner as I could, the absolute necessity of an army being taught to act all on the *same principle*,

and that every individual of an army of 100,000 men should have been drilled *exactly in the same manner*, as much as if they had all been instructed by the same man.

The following example may serve to shew the mischief which may accrue from a deviation from the order for the regularity of pace, trifling as that may at first appear.

Suppose the quick step of one regiment was at the rate of four miles in one hour, that of the others was only three; a General is not supposed to know of this difference, it is too minute a circumstance to come within his knowledge; he only knows, that the former is at a town nine miles off, and the others at a place twelve miles from the spot he wishes they should meet and join at. The rate of marching he knows is ordered by the King to be 75 steps, in a minute, in slow time; and 120 in quick time, which is about the rate of three miles an hour; the army are to assemble, we will suppose, at four o'clock in the morning, at a given place: He, therefore, orders the regiment which is nine miles distant to march at one o'clock, allowing them three hours to perform their march; but as this regiment has neglected to practise their men to that rate, which all the others have been practised at, and march at the rate of four miles an hour, it arrives three quarters
of

of an hour before the others, and may be the cause of discovering to the enemy the projected attack, and of their own destruction.

It may not be improper now to consider the different shapes an army can assume.

The first is the line.

The second the column.

The first is that it most generally assumes when acting on the offensive, or defensive. The modern system orders the line to be formed three deep by the infantry, two deep by the cavalry; 60,000 of the former would thus be three rows of men (of 20,000 each) placed close behind each other. Imagine 60,000 men undisciplined, turned loose on a plain, what an undertaking would it be to arrange them as above described, and if you did at length get them into line, every time it was necessary to move them, the same mob, the same confusion and the same trouble to re-align them after each movement; therefore, however formidable a body of 60,000 men may be, yet without discipline, that is, uninstructed, it would be a most unwieldy machine, whereas by the several divisions of the army, as follows, it becomes capable of forming every evolution with as much ease as 50 men.

An army is divided into wings and into brigades, each brigade is composed of battalions or squadrons, and each battalion is di-

vided into grand divisions, divisions, sections and files.—Squadrons are divided into half ranks, quarter ranks, threes*, and files—that is to say, a squadron is told off into each of those tellings, and thus the squadron becomes manageable and pliant when necessary, without losing its solidity and strength when in line.

As this is meant for the use of cavalry officers, I shall confine myself to the operation of squadrons, “whose manœuvres ought to be as analogous to those of the Infantry, (as the nature of the arm will admit.”

Squadrons are drawn up in line with an interval between each equal to the front of the squadron—recollect that this interval must always be preserved in open column. The other shape it can assume is the column, which is the form it takes when in motion, for it seldom happens that ground is sufficiently unincumbered to permit so extensive a line as 60,000 men to continue its movements in line to any distance.

* The telling by threes is, in some light dragoon regiments, called *Sections*.

CHAP. VII.

To tell off the Squadron.*

A SQUADRON is told in the following tellings:

By Files.

Fours.

Half ranks, or two divisions.

Quarter ranks.

(A) Troops or three divisions.

(A) Subdivision of troop, or sections.

Four center files.

Centre file of half squadron.

As for example. Suppose a Squadron to consist of forty-two files. After telling themselves by files, which is done by placing the standard in the centre, who says Right; the two men on his right and left say Left; the next two, Right, and so alternately;

* The only difference in telling off the Squadron dismounted, is, that the standard is then sent to the center of the regiment.

A regiment of four troops only, had better be formed into two squadrons of two troops each; in which case the two tellings marked with (A) (A) must be omitted.

You then tell them by fours.* There are ten fours in forty-two, and two over. It is a general rule, that in telling off a squadron or regiment, you must always place the greatest number on the flank. The reason is, as a column may be formed on one of these divisions, to pass a narrow place, where a large number has passed a smaller can follow. You see therefore, as there are ten divisions of four men in forty-two, and two men over, it will be proper to put the two over men into one of the divisions of fours, as two would be too small a division; and according to the rule before laid down, the flanks are the places to tell them in. You must therefore begin on the right, (for in all telling, except by files, you begin on the right) and say, *Right of Fours*, and tell on, 2, 3, 4, 5, to the fifth man. You then say, *Left*. You then say to the next, *Right of Fours*, 2, 3, 4; and now to the fourth man you say *Left*; and so proceed till you come to the fifth man from the left, whom you tell is *Right of fours*. The left man of the squadron must be the left of every telling.

Your next telling is of two divisions, or half rank, or half squadron. This is merely

* The light dragoons tell off by threes instead of fours; they jokingly say, a heavy troop horse's long tail requires the breadth of an additional horse.

dividing

dividing the whole into two equal parts, *viz.* twenty-one in each telling. The man on the right of each twenty-one will be the right of two divisions, half rank, or half squadron. Quarter ranks are next to be considered, and they are formed by subdividing the half rank, or dividing the whole into four parts. Three divisions, or troops, then follow, after which subdivisions of troops. You must begin with the large number, and then subdivide it.

Having told off the squadron and proved it, by calling each telling thus. Right files. Left files.

Right of fours.

Left of ditto.

Right of half ranks; or squadrons.

Left of ditto.

Right of quarter ranks.

Left of ditto.

Right of three divisions.

Left of ditto.

Right of subdivisions or sections.

Left of ditto, four center file. Center file of half squadron.

The officers must be then posted, which is explained in the next chapter.

CHAP. VIII.

Of posting Officers in Squadron.*

IF a squadron is complete in officers, there should be nine; three quarter masters, who not being told in as files must act with the officers; having therefore twelve officers, they should be posted in the following manner.

The eldest in rank to command the squadron.

The next ditto { the right
quarter rank.

The next { the left
quarter rank.

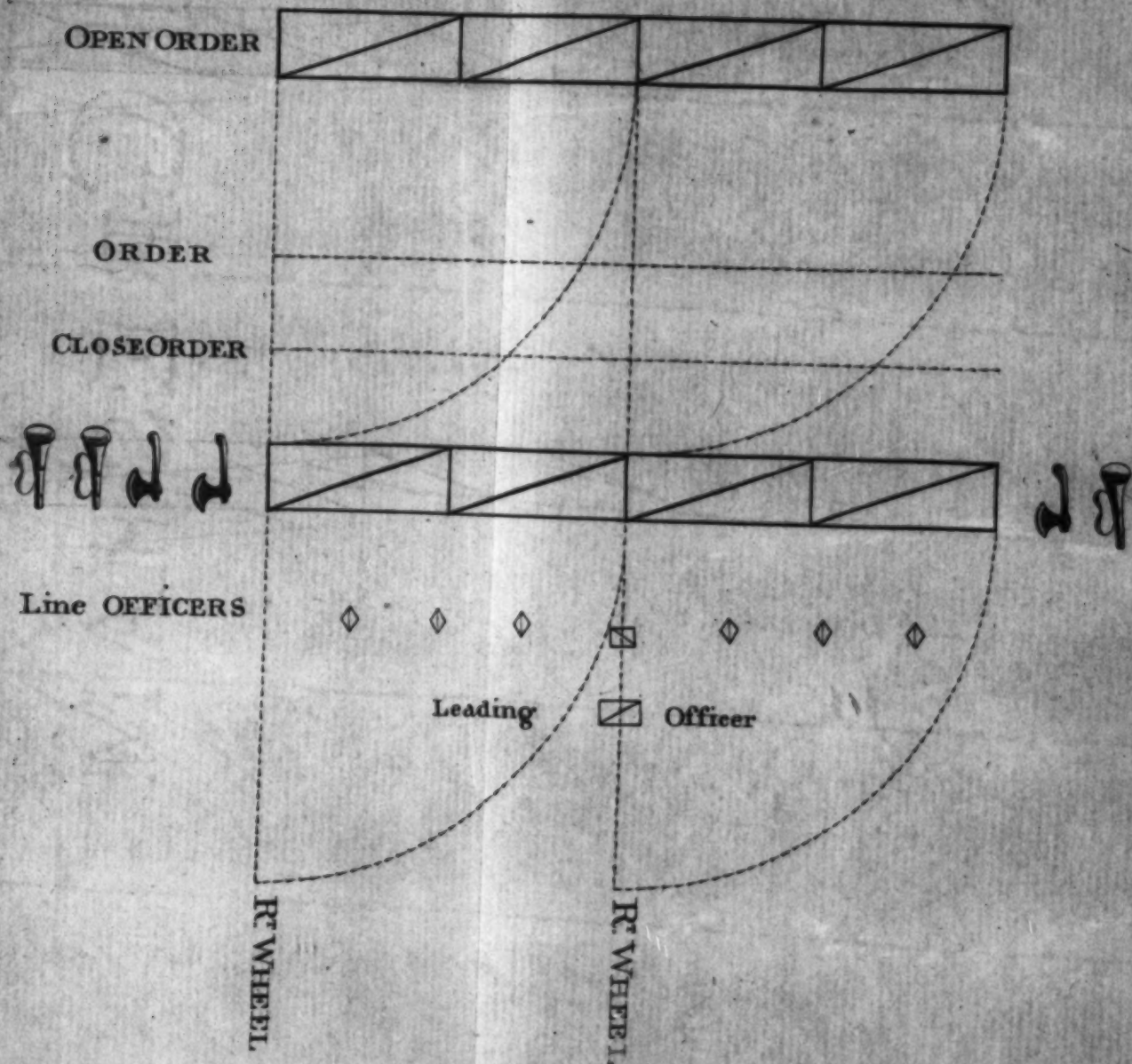
The next { the second
quarter rank.

The next { the third
quarter rank.

The eldest cornet carries the standard, the officers commanding the flank quarter ranks should be covered by officers. The standard and the 2d and 3d quarter rank officers

* A squadron is three troops, but one regiment alone at exercise manœuvres its troops as squadrons, and are then called squadrons.

A Squadron at Open Order, with other distances Marked.



should be covered by the three quarter-masters, who are, when the officers move out in front of the squadron, (as when at open order) to move up into the interval they left.* The remaining officer leads to the rear, and is always in the third or supernumerary rank. Sergeants should be posted in the front rank of their respective troops, on the flanks and center, covered by the corporals, except in the center troop of the squadron, in the center of which two sergeants should be posted, so as to flank the standard as a reserve, or guard to it, and consequently should never quit it; for if a squadron in pursuit or by any accident should be broken, they are the rallying point, shewing the front also to which they are to form: another advantage derived from posting sergeants as above, is, should it be necessary to manœuvre by half squadrons, you have sergeants on your flanks, who, being the most intelligent persons, are the properest to be there:†

* In the infantry the covering sergeants do this, but as in the cavalry the sergeants are told in as files, the quarter-masters are as properly posted thus, as in the rear of the squadron.

† The sergeants must not remain thus posted, after the regiment is dismounted; they must then post themselves as directed in the orders and regulations given out at the war office: this may be easily done, as the regiment goes about after linking.

As

As it seldom happens that a squadron has nine officers with it in the field, besides quarter-masters, it may not be improper to point out the most necessary posts in squadron to be officered: the quarter-masters should invariably be posted as before remarked, in the center, and on the right and left of the two center quarter ranks.

The most useful and necessary posts appear to be on the flanks (in the front rank) of the quarter ranks, that officers may not only command, but animate the dragoons by their example; the command of the squadron, and the four quarter ranks, should absolutely be the posts for the officers; a single regiment however, generally manœuvres by some smaller division than a real squadron, who, in that case are called squadrons; by troops for example, into which they break at the pleasure of the exercising officer: after having performed a few manœuvres in real squadrons; it will be then proper to send the officers with their respective troops, except the standard cornet, who, though he may not belong to the center troop, must nevertheless not quit it.

The horse evolutions should be learnt so perfect as to recollect the succession in which they come. They are at full length at the end of the next chapter, which treats of the regiment mounted in the field. CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

The Regiment mounted in the Field.

THE WORD OF COMMAND is given throughout by the exercising officer. The line should be well dress'd to the right; the officer a horse's length in the front of the squadron.

Rear Rank, close to the Croup.

Officers then go to the right about.

Tell off the Squadron.

When the squadron is told off,

Rear Rank, rein back to ORDER.

Officers again come to the right about. It is here proper to make some observations on the opening of the ranks, and the distance each opening should have. There are four distances, viz;

OPEN ORDER.

ORDER.

CLOSE ORDER.

CLOSE TO THE CROUP.

At Open Order, the rear rank should be as far

far distant from the front as half its length, because they will require that distance in wheeling by half squadrons. (*Vide Plate II.*)

At *Order*, the distance is equal to one fourth; or quarter rank.

Close Order, a horse's length, so that you may wheel by fours.

Close by the Croup, as close as you can.

Draw your Swords.

The reviewing officer then comes opposite to the centre, in the front, when all the officers salute him together. The reviewing officer having passed through the ranks, takes his post in the front of the regiment. The commanding, or exercising officer, then gives the word,

RANKS, by SUBDIVISIONS,

[or QUARTER RANKS, by RANKS, as the exercising Officer pleases]

to the Right, take Ground.

March.

The reader will observe, that the word *Ranks* is here made use of, and that the emphasis is laid on that word; the reason of which is, that it signifies to the men, that the wheel is to be made by each rank independently, not covering each other, and therefore the rear rank must be at such a distance from the pivot,

as to give sufficient room for its wheeling flank to come round without interfering with the pivot flank of the front rank. Had the word been only *QUARTER RANK* or *SUBDIVISIONS to the Right or Left wheel*, without making use of the word *Ranks*, it would imply that the wheel was to be made with the rear rank covering.

The leading officer of the squadron, when he has brought the rear of his squadron on the ground where his right stood, orders,

Subdivisions, to the left, Wheel, and form, forward.

He continues moving, and when near enough, wheels the squadron to the left, and the regiment marches past the reviewing officer in the following order: First, by squadrons, in *Open Order*. Farriers gallop out to the front of the officers; and trumpeters in the rear of the farriers.

The squadron continues marching, dressing to its centre, till within ten paces of the general; the officer then says,

Eyes Right.

Officers salute together, taking time from the leading officer, who is advanced in the front. At dropping the point of the sword, the officers all look well to the right. When the squadron has passed about fifty yards, it wheels

wheels to the left by word of command, and at fifty yards more, wheels again to the left. The commanding officer of the first squadron then gives the word,

By Troops, to the Front, form your March.

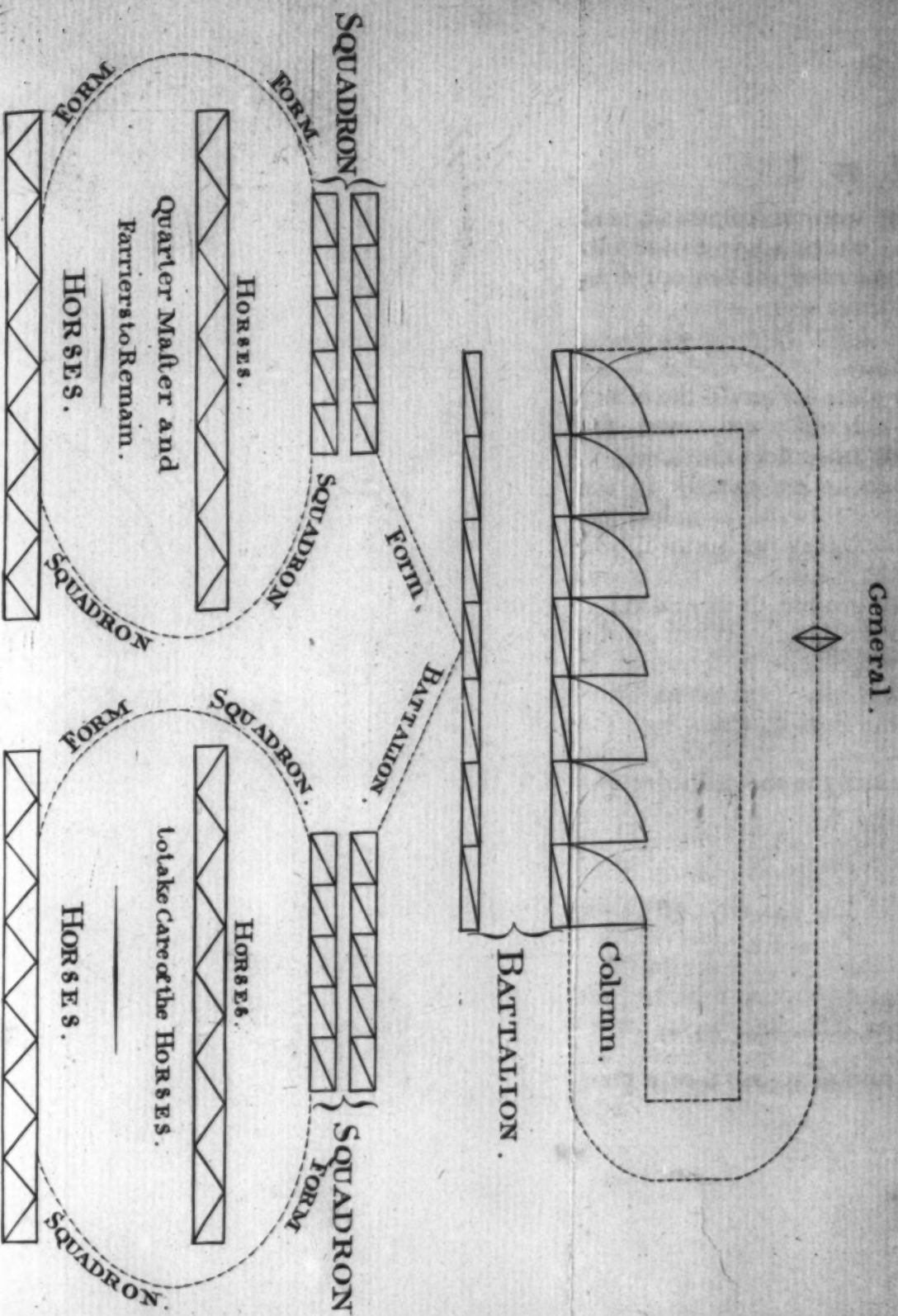
The right troop trots forward; the center troop obliques to the right, and covers the right troop; the left troop does the same.

The other squadrons do exactly as the right did. They trot forward in a line parallel to that on which they first formed, and when the head of the column, or right troop, comes opposite their ground, it wheels to the left; the others do the same. When on the ground they first wheeled on in squadron, it again wheels to the left. The wheel completed, it files to the front by ranks from the right or left, according as it is sized; the other copying it exactly in the following order:

Farrier,	} a good horse length apart.
Trumpeter,	
Captain,	
Lieutenant,	
Cornet,	
Quarter-master,	

Front rank and rear rank follow.

You should be careful to advance a good way



way to the right of the General before you form your troop, that you may not hinder the others from filing off, who should always form upon the same ground you did, taking care to move off as soon as formed. You continue moving very slowly to the front, halting frequently, as you will observe the length of time for every troop to file off is very great. But note, the standards are always to be escorted by two serjeants in the above-mentioned filing. When the three troops composing your squadron are formed, the word will be,

Troops, to the left Wheel, and form Squadron.

Halt.

* The other troops form in the rear of your squadron, forming squadron as they come up. When all the squadrons are formed, you march on, the first, or right squadron, not wheeling, till it has brought its left flank on the same ground which the left flank of the left squadron first stood on. It then wheels, the other squadrons wheeling on the same ground. The commanding officer then observing when the squadrons are on their respective places, with their left flanks where they first stood, gives the word,

Squadrons to Left, Wheel, and form Line.

D

Return

Return Swords.

File to Dismounting Distance.

On which the right Squadron files to the left, the left Squadron to the right, till they come within ten yards of the center Squadron.

Prepare to Dismount.

Officers pass to the flank of the Squadron and dismount with the men. Left files then rein back, the right remaining perfectly steady till the signal from the *Fugal Man*. The whole then proceed to dismount.

N. B. The method of dismounting is only to be learnt by practice.

When all are down, which is done regularly by signals, the men hang their swords* on their saddles, take down their firelocks, and come up to the interval they reined back from.

Link your Horses.

You go to the right about by signal. The horses linked, you remain facing them, arms trailed, and dress'd to the right.

To the Right about.

* In the light dragoons, the men only alter the manner of wearing the sword by raising it a little, and place the hilt flat to the body, under the belt.

The

The whole step their right legs back. At the word,

Face,

all come about,

Quick March.

Form Squadron. (Vide Plate.)

Rear rank run round the flank of the front rank of horses, and form in the rear of the front rank, who are to take very short paces till the squadron is formed.

Form Battalion.

Flank squadrons oblique inwards. Standards run to the centre of the regiment.

Halt.

Dress.

At the word Halt, the men drop the butt of their arms on the ground, and handle immediately.

Fix Bayonets.

Shoulder Arms.

Battalion will move forward.

March.

Open Ranks.

Officers come out in the front.

Halt.

Present Arms.

At the last motion of the *present*, officers

look to the centre. Music plays the March, and on the repetition, officers salute together.

Shoulder your Arms.

Officers recover their swords.

March.

Rear Rank, Close to the Front.

* *By Grand Divisions, to the Right, Wheel.*

Halt. Dress.

† *Quick March.*

Head of the Column. Halt.

Left Wheel. March.

Head of the Column. Left Wheel.

Halt. Slow March.

Open Ranks.

March by. Officers salute. They march by also in quick time by troops, carrying arms to the General.

* Grand divisions are half squadrons.

† The grand divisions having wheeled to the right, are thus thrown into column with the right in front. They continue moving to that front, a certain length of ground, about as much as the regiment occupies in line, then comes the caution to the head of the column, which direction they continue, forming thus a right angle; then another caution and a wheel will bring the column on the same line the reviewing officer stands on.

When

When the exercising officer has formed the battalion, which he does by wheeling the divisions to the left;

March, Open your Ranks.

Halt. Dress.

Unfix your Bayonets.

Officers take post in the Rear of the Battalion.

Slow March.

At a field-day, or review, the regiment goes through the same manœuvres on foot as an infantry regiment, and ought to do them as well. When their foot business is over, they go to their horses, are mounted, and then perform their horse evolutions, which are as follows, and are the rudiments of manœuvring; as no manœuvre can be performed in which some of these evolutions do not unavoidably occur.

They ought to be strongly impressed on the memory of every officer; and regiments should practise them at least once in a week.

HORSE EVOLUTIONS.

Half Ranks, to the Right, Double.

Quarter Ranks, to the Right, Double.

Quarter Ranks that Doubled, as you were.

Half Ranks that Doubled, as you were.

(The same to the Left.)

*By two Divisions, wheel to the Right and Left
outwards.*

Wheel inwards to your former Front.

*The Line moves forward, and on the
march the rear rank moves forward to
Order.*

*Subdivisions of Troops, by Ranks, Right Wheel.
(Bugle to form)**

*Subdivisions of Troops, by Ranks, Left Wheel.
(Bugle to form)*

*Subdivisions of Troops, by Ranks, Right about
Wheel. (Bugle to form)*

*From the Right of Quarter Ranks, by Ranks,
file to the Front. (Form by Bugle)*

† Regiments who have bugle horns use them to
sound signals for the formation of the line.

From

From the Left of Quarter Ranks, by Ranks, file to the Rear. (Bugle to form)

The Line moves forward, and on the march to close order.

By Subdivisions, to the Right Wheel. (Both ranks wheeling, Bugle to form.)

By Subdivisions, Left Wheel. (Ditto to form)

From the Right of Squadrons, by Subdivisions to the Front form Column. (Ditto to form)

From the Left of Squadrons, by Subdivisions to the Rear form Column. (Ditto to form)

By Files from the Centre of Squadron, form Column to the Front. (Bugle to form)

By Files, from the Flanks of Squadrons to the Centre, form Column to the Rear. (Ditto)

From the Flanks of Squadrons, file to the Front. (Ditto)

From the Flanks of Squadrons, file to the Rear. (Ditto)

Squadrons, to the Right, Wheel. Right, Wheel, Right about, Wheel.

The same to the Left.

To the Right, Wheel the Circle.

The same, to the Left. (Bugle to form)

On the four Centre File of the Line, form Column to the Front. (Bugle to form)

From the Flanks of the Line to the Centre, form Column to the Rear. (Ditto to form)

From the Right Flank of the Line to the Left Flank, form Column to the Rear. (Ditto to form)

From the Left Flank of the Line to the Right Flank, form Column to the Rear. (Ditto to form)

From the Front of the Line to the Rear, form Column to the Rear. (Ditto to form)

From the Rear of the Line to the Front, form Column to the Front. (Ditto to form)

CHAP. X.

OF Columns.

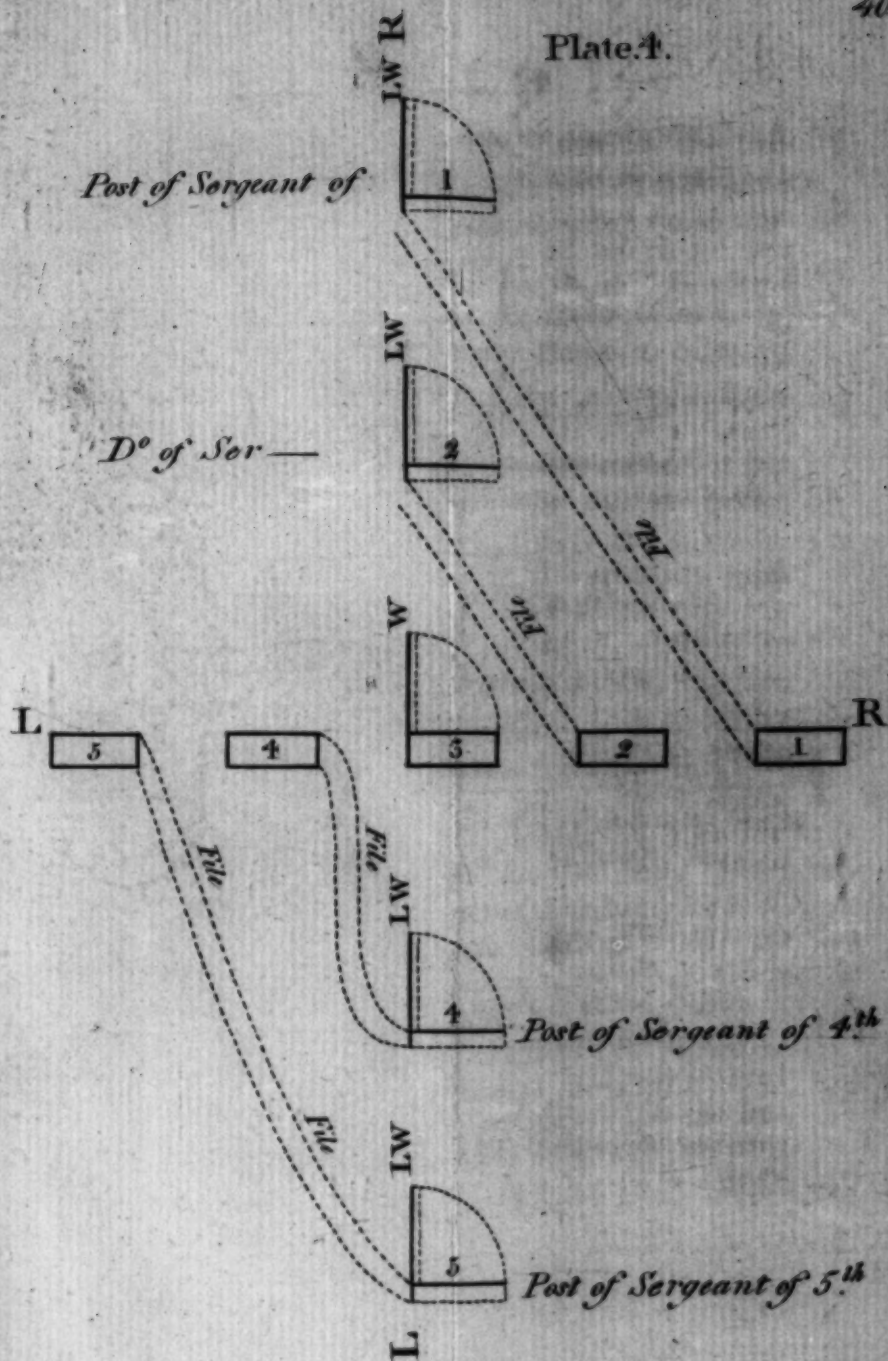
THE principles for cavalry and infantry, must be as analogous as the nature of the two arms will admit; the same words of command, and methods of formation and movement, should as far as possible be adopted, and take place in the separate and combined manœuvres; the great advantages thence arising are obvious. Vide Dundas, p. 22.

The author has endeavoured to adopt the

* A column is any number of separate bodies placed in a continued line behind, and covering each other. Vide Dundas, p. 69.

above

Plate. 1.



above maxim in the instructions for the execution and formation of the following columns and deployments into line; he was at the time he collected the matter, from which he was enabled to form this little work, Aid du Camp to a General officer in the British service, of great celebrity, and of tried and approved skill; each of the following manœuvres was practised by the camp under his command, and executed as near "as the nature of the arms would admit," in the manner herein directed.

There are a few rules which an officer must always attend to when he is at exercise, on which depends the precision with which he executes the manœuvres, viz. to lead his squadron perfectly straight, not to go faster or slower, or before the squadron of direction; always to be, when in column, on the pivot flank of the division he commands: and to be very careful to preserve the interval both in column and line.

When reducing columns and forming lines to recollect to wait till the squadron which is nearest the point of apui are formed; thus, if the formation begins on the right, to wait till the squadron immediately on his right has formed in line, and is perfectly steady, before he begins to move up into line.—To make his men dress

dress to the same flank the formation begins at, and to be himself within three file of that of his own squadron. It is impossible to go on a straight line from one station to another, without taking some intervening mark, which must be always kept in a line with the object you wish to go to. The irregularity which a *Squadron of Direction** would cause in a line, by not preserving the exactest uniformity of pace, and by not going immediately straight, is not to be conceived but by those who have witnessed it; it is therefore absolutely necessary that officers should understand the method of taking objects to march on, which is done in the following way.

An officer intends marching straight to a castle, church, or any determined and fixed object, as far off as he can see; this he keeps constantly in his eye, and at the same time observes some *intervening object*, such as a bush, &c. which he always keeps in a line with the first object: thus, as long as he keeps

* No line, horse or infantry, can move with any sort of precision, without relying on some small portion of it, to direct and regulate the movement; in cavalry, it is generally a squadron, on whom all the others depend, both as to the pace of the movement and direction. This is called the *squadron of direction*.

these

these two objects covering exactly, he may be certain that he is going straight.

There are two general rules, viz. when the right of the line forms the front, or head of the column, the left flank of that column should cover; because, to reform the line, the divisions must wheel to the left, and it will always happen that troops will not be equally strong. Sickness, death, and many other accidents will occur to weaken one troop more than another; therefore, the only means of counteracting the irregularity of numbers, is the attention to the exact covering of the pivot files, and the distance or interval between divisions in open column. As therefore the left flank of the column must cover, having the right in front; the right flank must cover when the left or rear is in front.

The next rule is, all changes from line into column, must be done by filing* from the flank.

Columns are formed on any telling of the line, according to the nature of the defile they are to pass.

Whilst the † open column is in motion, officers should be at the pivot flanks of the divisions they command; in close column a small

* Vide Dundas, p. 70 to 73.

† This explanation is adapted to movements of column on foot.

space

space between each division: Were they close up, it would impede the movements of the column. In open column the interval or space between each should be equal to the front of the division, otherwise it could not wheel into line.

As this work is intended to refer to the business of a regiment mounted, it is to be observed, that when in line, there is generally a space between each squadron equal to its front; this space must be preserved in open column; so that the interval is then equal to twice the length of the front of the squadron, because as above directed, the interval between each squadron in line, is as long as the front of one squadron; and, as in open column the interval is always understood to be as long as the front of one of its divisions; this added to the line interval gives a distance equal to two fronts. It is the only *material* difference there is between the method of manœuvring a foot and a horse column.

* Since the author wrote this, he has seen the printed regulations which the British cavalry under the command of Major General Dundas, who remained on the continent, were to adopt: in those, they order the interval to be only equal to one third, as also the opening of ranks to the open order, to be only equal to one third of the front. The squadrons there consisted of two troops only, and were told off into files, threes, and half troops.

A mounted

A mounted column may have occasion to retreat in the same direction it advanced on; as the leading division will be the first who feels the check, the method they take of going about should be followed by the whole; in short as the first is the leading * and the directing division, whatever he does the succeeding ones should repeat, † and the officers should take care to speak loud and clear, so that those in the rear may hear and repeat the orders to their respective squadrons.

Columns may be formed on either of the flanks, or any other given squadron of the line.

In changing fronts, it will be necessary always to form in open column on the ground to be occupied by the line, and then wheel up the division, by which means the pivot flank of each company becomes an intermediate point, and these covering well between and on the outward flank points of the new alignment, the line must be correct and well formed.

Columns should be always reduced by filing the divisions by double files.

* In column the leading division is always that of direction. Vide Dundas, p. 24.

† General Dundas directs the officer commanding a column to be at the head of it.

EXAMPLE

EXAMPLE I.

Suppose a line composed of five squadrons at exercise, in all the following examples.

WORD OF COMMAND.

On the third Squadron of the Line, the Right in front, to the Front form open Column.

March.

The third is the center squadron of the line, consequently the 1st and 2d compose the right, and the 4th and 5th the left.

As the column is ordered to be formed on the 3d squadron, it must (as must all others in a similar case, and at the same time, that is, being the given squadron, or that on which the others are to form) stand fast.

The next consideration is, the right flank is ordered to be in front: to arrive therefore at their proper destinations, the squadrons on the right must file from the left to front of the 3d squadron, and those on the left to the rear of it. The word of command for the officers to their respective squadrons will be, for those on the right,

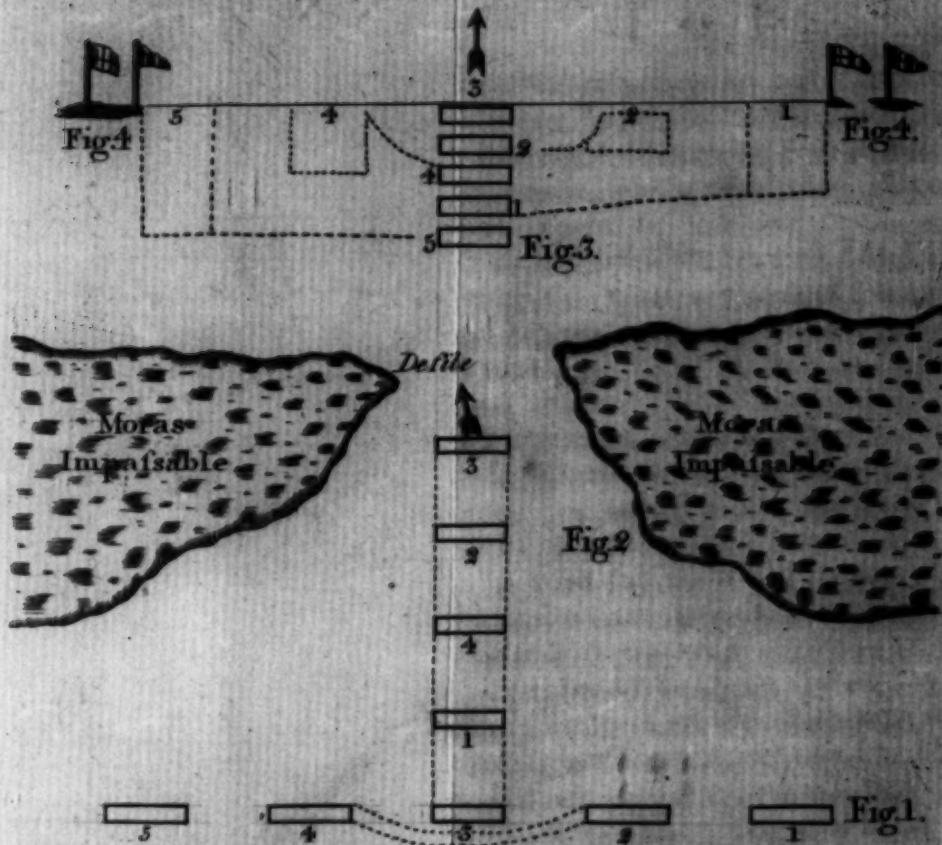
From the Left File to the Front. March.

For those on the left,

From the Right, File to the Rear. March.

Taking

New Alignment & Development of Col.ⁿ



REFERENCE.

- Fig. 1.st Original Position
- Fig. 2.^d Second D^o or Open Column
- Fig. 3.^d Third D^o or Close Column
- Fig. 4.th New Points of Alignment

Taking care to cover each other, and the *third* squadron in the rear, as do also the right, in the front of it.

METHOD OF FORMATION.

The first general rule must now be practised, the right is in front; the left flank of the column must cover, being the pivot.

In the word of command from the exercising officer, he pauses at the word *column*, when a sergeant * from each division trots briskly off to the front or rear, according to the flank he comes from, and places himself at a proper distance † from, and covering exactly the left flank of the third or given squadron; each officer then conducts his squadron to the sergeant, those on the left going behind their sergeant till the left flank is up to him.

These same rules and directions will hold good for the formation of the column, on any other squadron having the right in front.

If the left is in front, the same direction reversed will do.

* No sergeant can cover or dress by any single object, he has two however, the pivot files of the front and rear ranks of the given squadron, and he should be taught the method of taking objects.

† Vide first general rule, p. 43.

HOW

**HOW TO REDUCE THE COLUMN FORMED ON
THE THIRD DIVISION BY FORMING THE LINE
TO ITS FRONT OR REAR.**

To reform the line to its front is a very easy operation, and is thus done:

WORD OF COMMAND.

Reduce the Column by forming the Line to the present Front on the Third Division.

Form close Column.

*Halt.**

To the Front form the Line.

To form close column, is to close up to the front squadron till your front rank is at about close order from the rear rank, the officer being on its flank.

FORMATION:

To form the line: the squadrons of the right file to the right, going perfectly straight, till they come opposite their ground, they then halt.

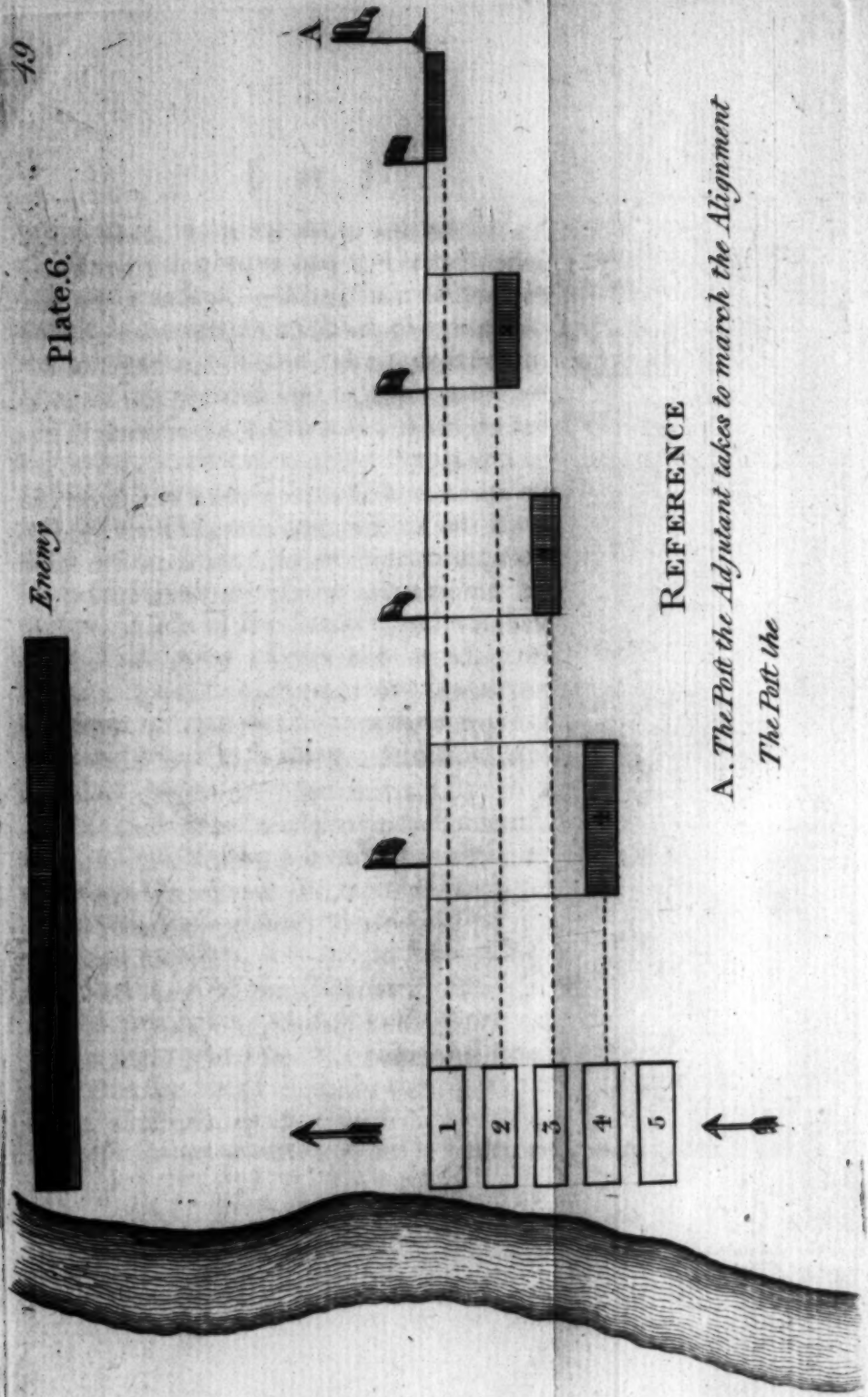
*To the Left turn. Forward. Halt. Dress,
Eyes Front.*

* This word if the column is in motion.

This

Enemy

Plate.6.



REFERENCE

A. The Post the Adjutant takes to march the Alignment
The Post the

This is the operation of the squadrons on the right of the centre or third squadron which moves gently on as soon as the right are clear of him, till he has taken up the ground on which the head of the column first stood.*

The operations of the left are the same as those of the right, the words of command being reversed.

The adjutant and a sergeant should, on the word *line* from the exercising officer, go to the flank, and aline themselves with the head of the column, to mark the new point of alinement.

The officers commanding the squadrons must observe, that though the words of command express what the operation of reducing the column in this manner is, yet there is a great deal of attention required to conduct each squadron to its place, with that exactitude necessary to form a good line. It may be said that, when balls are flying round as thick as hail—System, dressing and all tactick may go to the devil; the quickest way of forming is the best.—Granted, and the most regular way is the quickest, because it is certain, and unconfused; and when soldiers are,

* He should send off a sergeant to take up the ground, on which the officer who commands the leading squadron stood, in order to mark the spot he is to move up to.

E

by

by practice, accustomed to act on *one* principle, they will always find it the readiest, easiest and quickest.—These instructions are not meant as a treatise on the art of war; they are the explanation of the system ordered by the King to be practised by his whole army.—The officer after having given the word to turn to the front, must call to mind the second observation in the 10th chapter, and then sending out his flanker, to aline himself on the squadron who formed immediately before him, leads his squadron up into line, riding himself on the outside of the flanker, and who is an intermediate point of the alinement, halts his squadron, forming them from the flanker on the point of apui—this direction must be always observed in leading a squadron up into line.

Should it be necessary to form the line to the rear, wheel the squadron to the right about, and then the operation is the same as above described, having the left in front.

This example will suffice to shew the nature of columns, with *the Right in Front*.

Columns having the left in front are worked on the same principle, the rules and directions being the reverse of those for the right in front, as for example.

* A column with the right in front, covers

* See plate first, L. W.

on

on the left flank, that by wheeling the squadrons to the left, they may reform the line to its proper front, therefore a column led by the left, or having the left in front, must cover on the right flank, because to reform the line, the squadron must wheel to the right.

The author presumes to recommend to all officers, when at exercise, to adopt the mode of marking the ground or stations, which one or two of the leading squadrons are to take up in going from line into column, or from column into line, with serjeants or officers; the very great precision with which lines and columns will by this means be formed, will amply repay the little time lost by these officers going off for that purpose. He begs his reader's attention to shew the utility of this maxim, by pointing out the very great disadvantages and danger a line might be brought into by not adopting that or some other mode of marking, by intermediate points, the ground which may appear necessary to be occupied.

A column was ordered to advance and reform the line, with the right flank protected by the strong ground it was to occupy, and the left by a deep ravine. The column was led by the left, and it entered on the ground at the ravine; so that being an open column of companies, the leading one, which was the

left of the line, had nothing to do but to wheel his company to the left, and dress it well on the point of apui. Some confusion happening in the rear of the column, the General (who had given his orders as clear as possible, and which had been as clearly carried to the colonel who commanded the brigade) left the formation to him, and went to see what occasioned the delay or confusion in the rear. He was not, however, a little displeased to find, on his return to the front, that the alinement taken by the companies already formed was some yards to the rear of the front he had ordered to be marked by two camp colours, had thrown his right off the strong ground, and left it for the enemy, the movement was stopped, and the time it took to correct the error was incredible; nor after all was it a good line. Had the formation gone on, instead of taking the supposed enemy's columns in flank, as was his intention, the left flank of his army would have been entirely exposed to them.

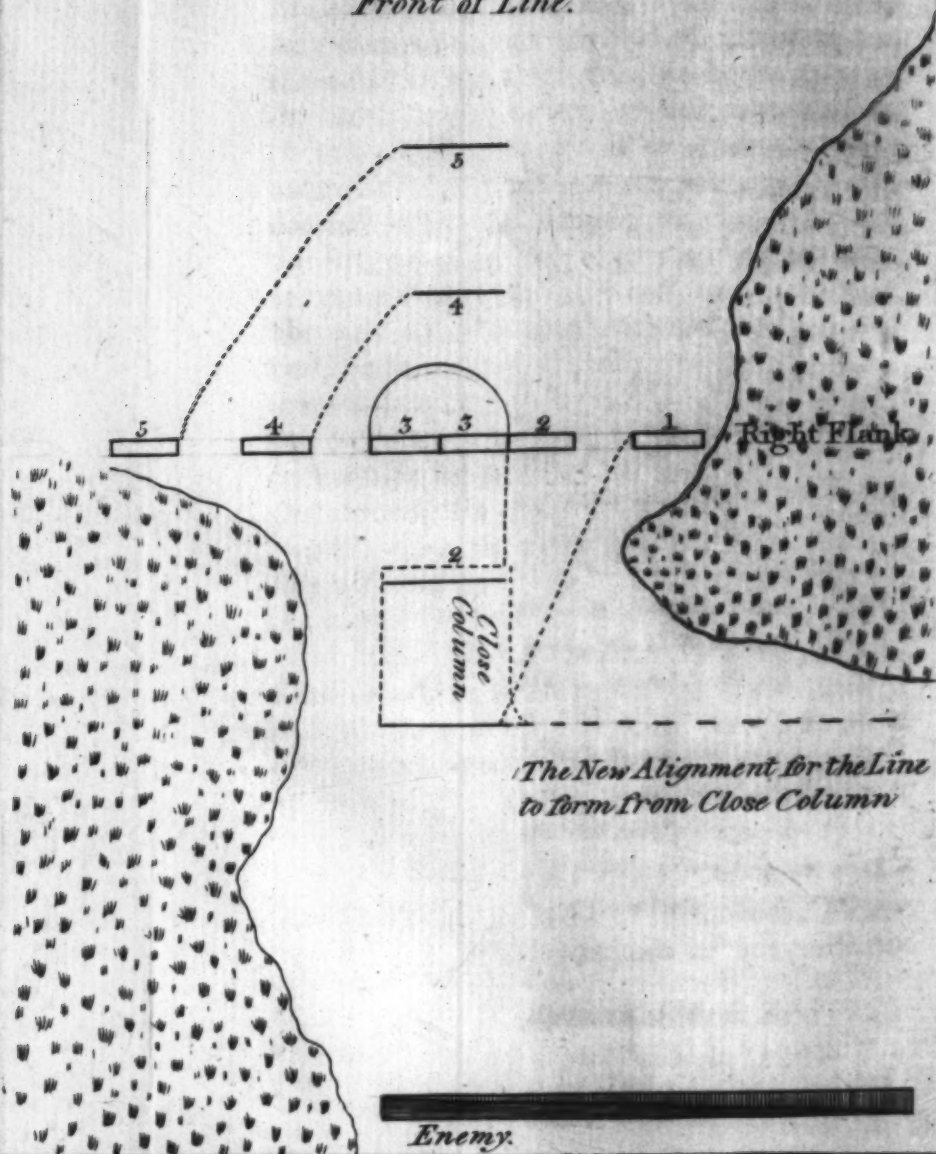
EXAMPLE II.

*On the Centre Squadron of Line to the Front
form open Column.*
March.*

* Vide plate second.

FOR-

Front of Line.



*AB. The Right Squadrons Form by the Left & the Left by the Right
or Else the Rear Ranks will be in Front.*

FORMATION.

The centre squadron at the word *march*, moves forward gently. The squadrons on the right file to the left, those on the left file to the right, and move on in that direction. The two squadrons on the right and left of the centre one, the right however immediately following it, as soon as it comes on the ground the centre stood on, turns to the right, and moves on, after it. The fourth squadron moves on filing to the rear of the second, till his leading file covers the right flank, it then turns to the left and follows; the other squadrons right and left alternately follow in the same manner, till the whole are in column.

This column is reduced by first forming close column, and then, when ordered to form line, the right squadron file to the right, the left to the left, till opposite their proper front, then turn to the front, trot up briskly, dress by the centre; who *halts* at the word *line*: The officers, as soon as their squadron are formed, order

Eyes Centre.

It might also have been reduced by an echelon movement*, which will be explained hereafter, that is, the nature of forming echel-

* Vide Example fifth.

lon lines. It might also have been reduced by deploying from either flank, as will be seen by the following example, which shews how to reduce a column on the rear squadron. But had not the obstacles mentioned occurred, they might have reduced it by filing all the rear divisions to the left, and forming each after it arrived opposite its proper station in line on the right squadron; the officer commanding squadron must recollect the foregoing instructions in this, as well as in every other deployment.

EXAMPLE. III.*

A close column, with the right in front, comes on ground, where some obstacle, morass, or wood, or river, immediately on the left flank, occasions the impossibility of deploying to that flank; yet it is absolutely necessary to form the line to the front.

WORD OF COMMAND.

On the Rear Squadron of the Column to the Front form the Line.

FORMATION.

Every squadron, but left or rear of the

* Vide plate the third.

column,

column, files to the right.* The rear squadron, when the others are quite clear of it, moves gently on, taking up, and waiting for each squadron, successively to form the line, till it comes on the ground the leading or head column stood first on.

The adjutant takes care to gallop to the right, to mark the point of alinement for the right flank.

EXAMPLE IV.

Suppose the enemy is advancing on the rear of the right flank of a column; you wish to shew him a front, to check him, or to fight him if necessary.

WORD OF COMMAND.

On the Center Squadron, The Right in Front, to the Rear form open Column! March.

FORMATION.

Centre squadron wheels to the right about, the squadrons on the right file from the left to the rear, those on the left, file from the right to the front form an open column on the centre or given squadron to that same front it has taken.

The sergeants, as usual, mark the ground their respective squadrons are to form on.

On observing the explanatory plate (the fourth) the reader will see another method of deploying, from the foregoing example—it will be on the leading squadron; for the bad ground on the right renders it impossible for the line to be formed on any other squadron: this deployment is on the same principle as that of the third example; with the difference of the leading, instead of the rear squadron, for the point of *appui*.

A close column sometimes may be required to open itself, in order to co-operate with an other column. The operation is extremely simple, it is only halting in succession the rear divisions of the column, till the interval betwixt each is as large as double the length of the front rank of division.

Of the Movement in Echelon.

EXAMPLE V.

Echellons are formed on a flank advanced or on the centre advanced, or any given squadron or squadrons, and may if necessary be changed in the march; also by wheeling the rear squadrons of the open column an eighth of the circle; which is commonly called half wheel,

wheel, in order to form the line to the same front the column was marching to, as will be shewn in the following example.

Suppose the open column, with the right in front is ordered to form the line to that front: the officer commanding it having first halted it, gives the word to all the squadrons except the leading one, to

Half Wheel to the left. March.

At the word *left*, the flank men of the rear squadron advance, and place themselves, and at the same time dress in as perfect a line as possible, on the spot where the right flank is to halt at, on the completion of the half-wheel. (See the plate, fig. 1.) At the word *march*, they wheel. Each officer halting his squadron, which done, the officer commanding gives the word

Form Line.

When each squadron moves up into line, in the same direction as the darts and dotted lines are drawn.

It is however proper to remark, that this formation when done well, is as fine a movement as can be; but if ill, and irregularly done, is altogether as ugly and confused. It depends on the attention of the officers commanding squadrons---They should, when almost

most up to the new alinement (Vide fig. 2. of the same Plate) square their squadrons to the front, by bringing up the shoulders, which are obliqued to the rear; in this movement, it would be the left shoulders; the officer should therefore order,

Left Shoulders forward.

* At the same time the right flanker should advance to the front, and dress himself by the right, on the squadron on his right, and should there wait. The officer who, when the column took the echellon form, should have advanced and placed himself in the front of the third file from the right, now goes on the right flank, taking care however to go also on the outside, or right of the flanker who first advanced at the point of alinement; and looking to the left, halts his squadron just as the left flank covers the left point of formation, or point of apui, which is denoted by the camp colour B.

The echellon with one flank advanced will be more easily explained by the references to the first figure in the plate.

Fig. II. is the echellon with the centre advanced. The lines A B and C D are to shew

* Vide the directions in Example I. page 49. beginning with the following words, "The officers commanding squadrons must observe," &c.

the

the formation in potence, which may afterwards be taken by wheeling the right wing to the right, and the left to the left.

I have observed that in all changes of front from line, it will be necessary first to form in open column, which the following example shall elucidate. Suppose the line is threatened with an attack on its right flank, it will be necessary to change the front by a movement to the left. Mark the alinement you mean to occupy, then place the squadron which appears most eligible to you to form on, with its right flank on the new line, well alined between the two given points you have fixed on for the new alinement: this done, by ordering an open column to be formed with the left in front on that squadron, and after by wheeling the squadrons up to the right, the whole will be well and correctly formed on the spot you wish. It may also be done by ordering the squadrons to file into the alinement on the squadron fixed on by the commanding officer.

The echelon was, I am told, a favourite manœuvre of the old king of Prussia's: the great advantage of it appears to be, that you can bring any part of your line into action, well supported without endangering that part you wish to favour. Flanks also are easier gained by this movement than by any other, For it is most deceiving to the enemy; when
the

the echellon obliques, it is almost impossible to tell, till it is close upon you, whether it is a line moving to the front or not.—It should in my opinion, be much practised.

CHAP. XI.

Of the Counter March.

LINES, columns, and divisions of columns, whether open or close, may be counter-marched.

A line may be counter marched, from either flank or on the center, either in file or by any other division, or telling of it; the principle of the movement is always the same.

To countermarch the line of squadron by files from the right, is nothing more than the operation of filing round to the rear, keeping close to the croups of the rear ranks horse, till the right flank is on the ground where the left stood, and then turning the horses head to the left,

left, the front is changed, and the movement completed, the principle, as before observed, is precisely the same when done either by fours or quarter ranks. The counter march of the line on its center is a more complicated business, and is thus done:

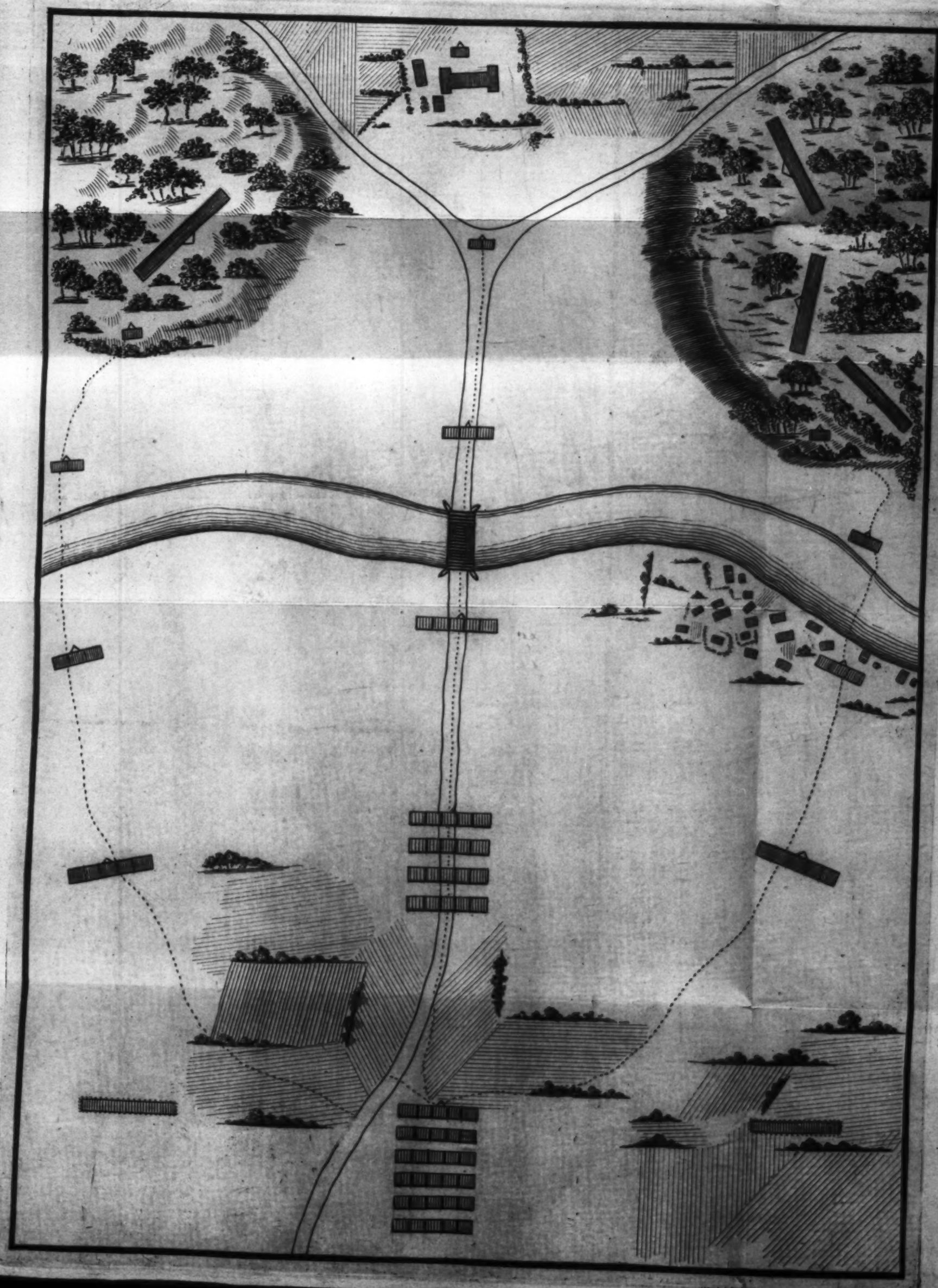
Make the center squadron wheel on its own centre, which is done as follows.

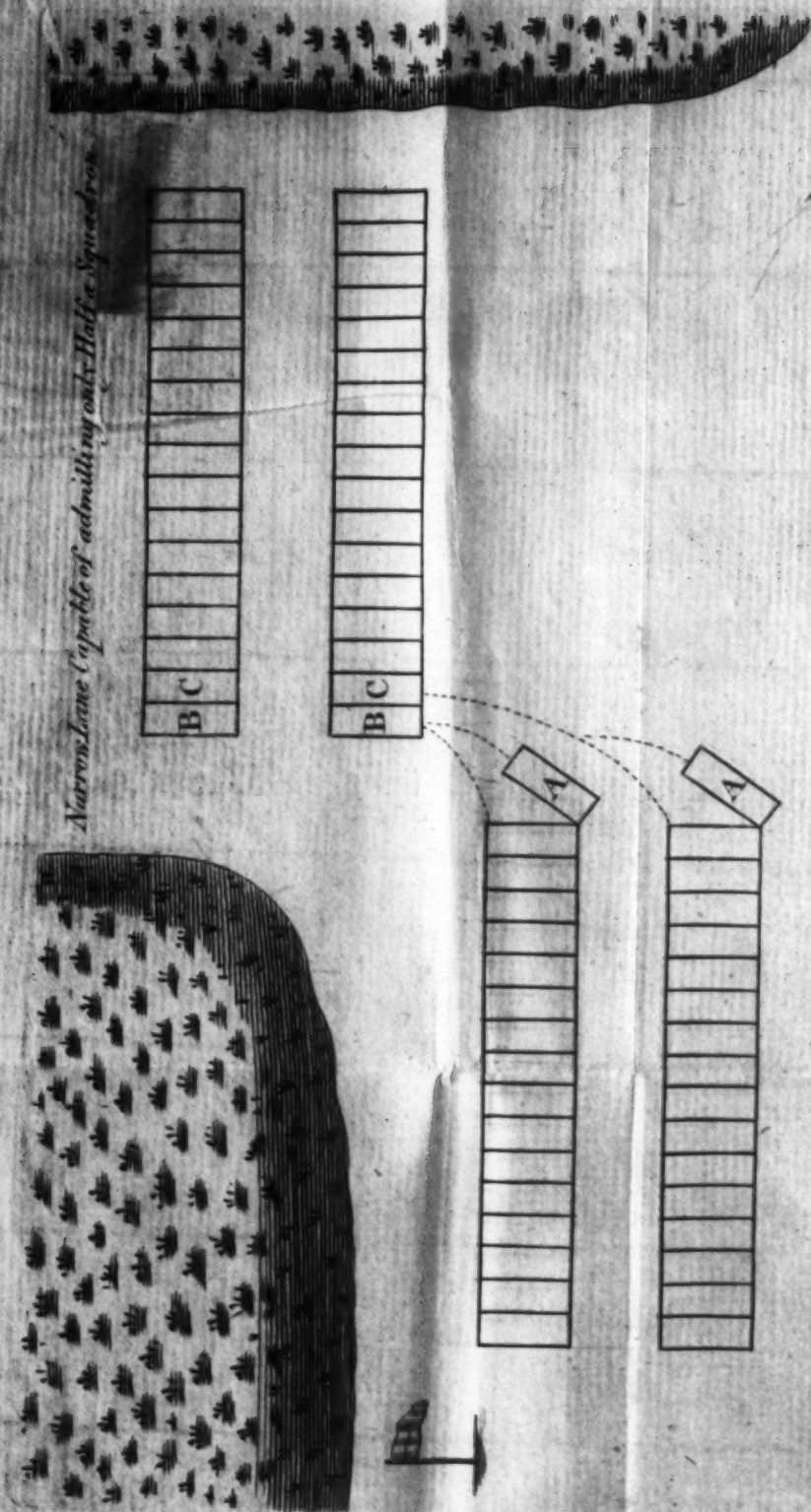
The right half squadron trots forward about the length of half its front rank, this gives the left half squadron room to wheel to the right about; the right half, at the same time, wheels to the left about, and then trots up and dresses by the left, on the left half squadron. This changes the front of the centre squadron on the same ground it first occupied. The right wing then files from his left, to the left; when the leading file has gone far enough, so as to take his proper distance from the center squadron, by being ordered to form to the left about, he reverses his front, and will occupy the same ground which the right flanker of the left wing has just quitted. The left wing will be under the necessity of advancing to the front, so as to clear the right and not interrupt him in his filing, and will then file from his right, and by reversing his front, place his right flanker on the ground previously occupied by the left flanker of the
right

right wing. The plate will explain what more may be wanting.

To countermarch open column, is to make the rear squadron change situation with the directing or leading squadron; the first step consists in the rear squadron obliquing to the front by the pivot flank, till it clears the squadron before it; for, supposing the column was at first formed with the right in front, the pivot was on the left flank; being ordered to countermarch, the left will then lead, and the right flank will become the pivot, and though by the operation of countermarching the column changes its ground its own breadth, yet it must not change the front towards which it was advancing, but continue in the same direction. Thus the ground, the left flank whilst pivots moved on, will be the same the right flank, now become pivots, will have to move on. Each squadron in succession from the rear performs the same evolution. The use of counter marching the open column is, when two or more are ordered to assemble at a given spot, having marched from different places, should one of these have been formed with its right in front and the others with their left; in order to co-operate with these, it must countermarch, and not to lose time, it may be done whilst in motion.

In





Narrow Lane Capable of admitting only Half a Squadron

The Interval between the Squadrons as order'd to be twice the Length of its front Equal to 72 file, & as one horse is Supposed to occupy in Length the same Space 4 Do in Breadth Half the Squadron being 17 File which Multiplied by 4 will give the Space of 68; The Column must not Halt, but continue in original pace till it arrives at the Camp Colour When the Left Half will Halt to begin filing from the Right

AA Right file of the Left Half Squadron going off in file on the Left file BB of the Right Half Squadron



This Plate is for Chapter 12th

Scale of 300 Yds

In close column the alternate squadrons, such as the 2d and 4th, move out of the column, and when clear, all counter march to the pivot on their own ground, those that moved out to make room filing again into column.

The open column, when attacked in the rear, may be counter marched by divisions; that is, each division of it counter marching on its own ground to the pivot, the pivot flankers reversing their front.

CHAP. XII.

Of Filing.

I HAVE heard many old and experienced officers say, that a regiment cannot be in so dangerous a form as when in file, and therefore particularly heavy cavalry ought to avoid filing, and when obliged to file through a défilée, to reform the squadron, as soon as ever the

the ground will admit of it. I have endeavoured to get some information respecting this evolution, and from what I have learned, am convinced that there cannot be so dangerous a situation as being in file. The 8th light dragoons were swept off a causeway when ordered in the year 1794 to attack the French in a village, to which the causeway led, and on which they advanced. It was said, that of sixty odd file who marched out to the attack, only 16 or 18 returned, such havoc did two small pieces of cannon make among them as they advanced in file.

In passing bridges and other narrow places I have tried the following method, and if sufficient confidence can be placed in the skill of the officer, who commands the leading squadron, it will answer; but all depends on his judgement, as the attention of the commanding officer of the regiment will be taken up in making the rear squadrons move off into file at the proper place, which is the same spot that the leading one started from. Suppose, therefore, the open column of squadrons advancing come up to a bridge. The time it would take to file off from one flank in the usual flow way is incredible, there are authors who say it would be quicker done to dismount half the men of a large body of cavalry, and make another bridge. The following calculation

calculation will prove that it must occupy a long space of time. A column moves at the rate of three miles an hour; the squadron consisting of 36 file occupies in front 48 yards, therefore as the column is 60 minutes going 1760 yards, which make a mile, the first squadron will be nearly two minutes before it has stretched itself into file, at its common pace of 3 miles per hour; as the left flanker, supposing the squadron filed from the right, has to ride 48 yards, which is the 32d part of a mile, before the right flanker of the 2d squadron can move; consequently the second squadron is detained two minutes, and two more he will be in filing off himself, makes four, which the 3d squadron will be detained before it can possibly move; thus should there be 20 squadrons, it will be a long time before the 20th can move, and then will be at least a mile in the rear of the leading squadron, so that if the column is retreating he may be awkwardly situated, and much annoyed by the pursuing enemy; and if going to attack, may come up too late to support the head, who may have been beat whilst the rear were creeping up. Therefore let the motion of the column be as slow as they can walk; but when it is necessary to file, let the leading squadrons, at a few yards from the entrance of the defileé, dash off on a hard gallop, in a column of files on the four

F

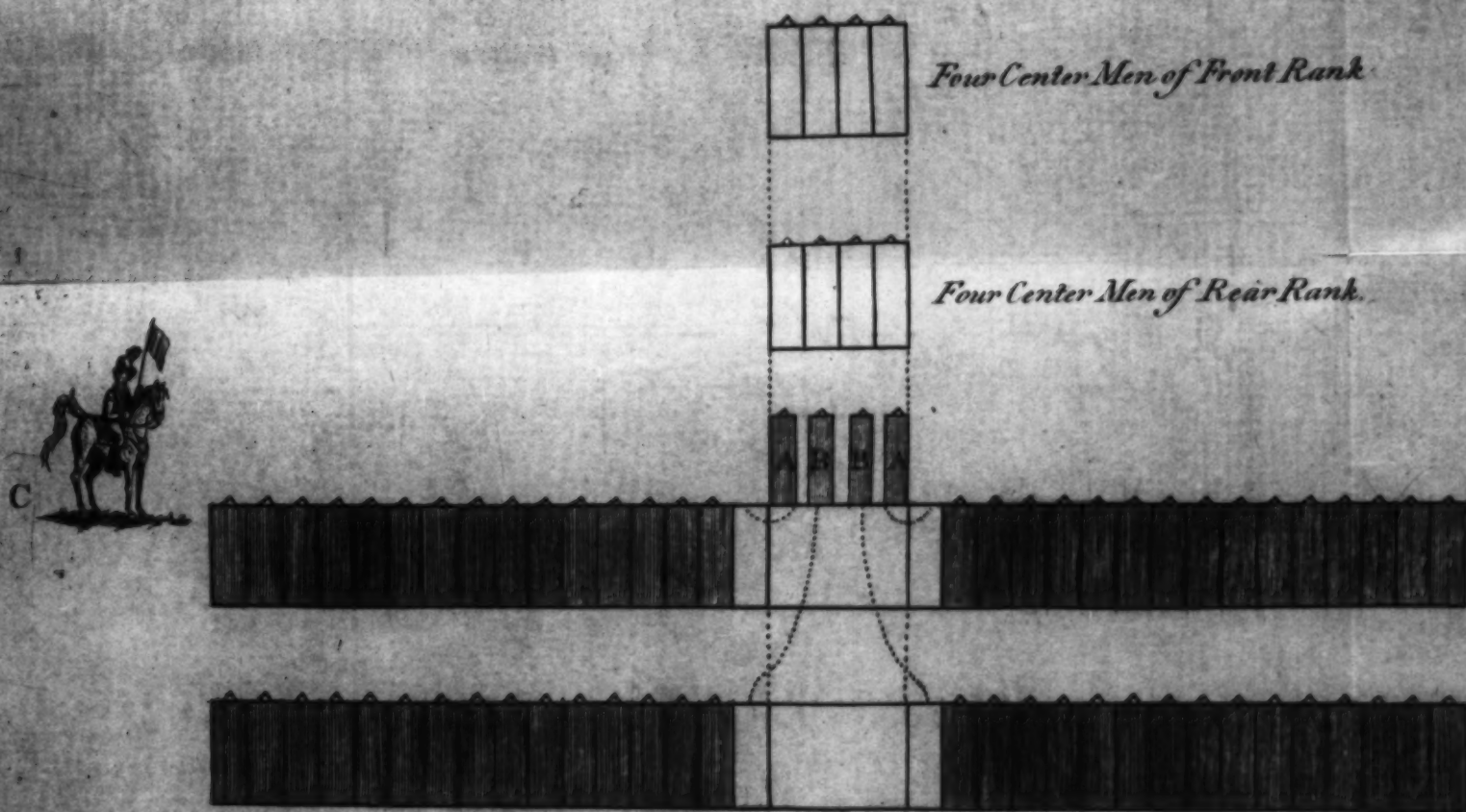
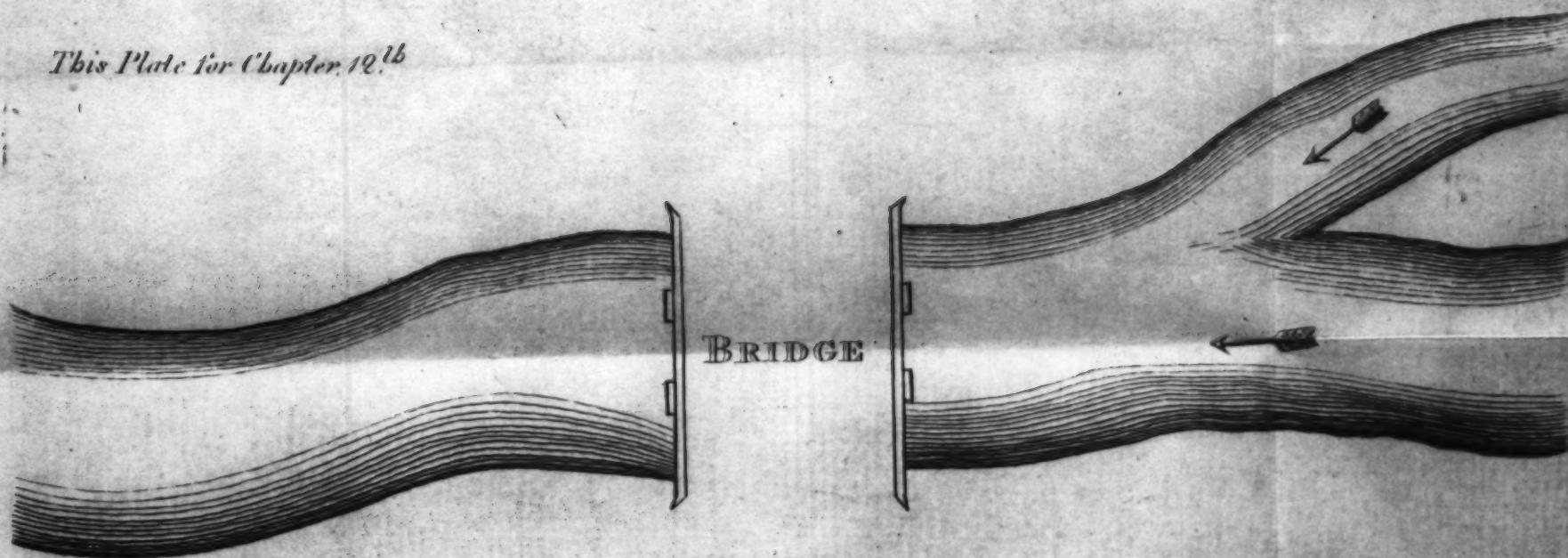
centre,

centre, or by double files from a flank, the succeeding squadrons then moving on at their original pace till they come up to the spot the leading one moved from, then gallop off, continuing at that pace as long as the head continues moving in it; thus the regular motion of the column is not decreased or increased, which might be productive of another disadvantage, which is—A General orders an attack to be made at a certain point, some brigades may have to march 10 miles, others only four, therefore the General calculates by the miles distant, how much time each brigade will require, so that all may arrive at the point of attack at the same moment, which if they failed to do, the expedition might not be attended with success; thus the column of cavalry who have to march nine miles must perform it in three hours, and I have just shewn what a check even a common bridge would cause, as there are no bridges wide enough to admit a squadron of cavalry in line. I before said, great judgement was required in the officer conducting the column, for though in passing a bridge as soon as the squadron is over, it may form and reassume its original place, each squadron of the column having the same length of ground to gallop, the regular motion of the column will not be altered; but in a lane it will not do, there the
leading

leading officer must judge how long it will be before the whole column are in file, and must continue a good canter till the whole are in file. Never go into file if you can move in column, should it be even of fours only, and if the defilée is wide enough to admit half a squadron, let that half immediately opposite it enter it in line, and let the other half drop back in file as marked in the plate, which is meant to represent a squadron entering a defilée capable of receiving half a squadron, the right are entering, the column continues moving, and the right file of the left half squadron moves off covering the two left file of the right half, nor will this at all check the rear squadron, because as soon as they arrive at the spot, the first squadron shortens its front, and though the right half continues, the left half halts, till, as I before said, they are in file from their right; as the interval between the squadrons is double the length of the front, it gives just room enough for one half to be in file, for they allow the length of one horse to be equal to the breadth of four, therefore as the column is four times longer in file than in line, one half in file will occupy twice its length, which is the proper interval between squadrons in open column. They re-form the squadron to the front also without halting.

leading others and how long it will be
 before the whole column is in the
 and contains a good career in the whole
 are in the. Never go into the if you can
 more in column, should be even of four
 only, and if the distance is wide enough to sh-
 unt half a column, for that half un-
 opposite a column in the, and the other half
 drop back as far as possible in the place, which
 is more in position a column forming a
 double capital of the column half a column
 the right and facing, the column con-
 moving, and the right side of the column
 position, and of course the two half the
 of the column, but will not all back the
 left position, because as soon as they are
 be the point, the half column should be
 and the other half column, the left half
 half, all as I have said, the right half
 that is, as the interval between the two
 column is double the length of the column,
 gives half as much room for one half to be in
 the, for they show the length of one half to
 be equal to the breadth of two, therefore as
 the column is four times longer in the than
 in line, one half in the will occupy twice its
 length, which is the proper interval between
 positions in open column. They are for the
 position to the front also without being.

This Plate for Chapter 12.th



A A. Marked on the Black are the Men on the Right & Left of the Center Four of the Front Rank & are to be followed by those on their Right & Left in file

B B. Marked on the Black within the A A are the Men on the Right & Left of the Center Four of the Rear Rank are to be followed by those on their Right & Left in file, Thus the Rear Ranks of the Right & Left Half Squadron are in file between the Front Ranks

C. An Adjutant to Mark the ground where the Succeeding Squadrons are to Begin Filing from their Center

CHAP. XIII.

Instructions to Officers at their
Posts in Squadron.

OFFICERS are not to conceive that being placed on the flank of a quarter rank and their not quitting it, is all that is required in that post; if the officer commanding a quarter rank does his duty, and is properly attentive, he will find that his situation is by no means devoid of trouble. The officer commanding the squadron has the most to do, and is answerable for the activity and regularity of its manœuvres; but every officer is answerable to him for the quarter rank he commands, and consequently can by his attention add to the expertness of his squadron's movement; at the best, though inattention may do no harm (which however is by no means probable) yet the stupid, wooden appearance of a man riding just where his horse chuses to carry him, without seeming to have an idea of what he ought to do, is so shocking, that the thought alone of the appearance a gentleman is making, thus absorbed in ignorant inattention, would stimulate the

For the
officers
leading the
squadron.

most supine temper, to acquire a knowledge of his profession, and preserve himself from the derision and contempt of the soldiers round, who are generally neither the worst nor the most delicate critics of an officer's professional knowledge.

Post of
command-
ing officer
of squadron
when not in
line.

Each squadron is led by an officer, who, when there are besides himself, four or more officers, is not to take the command of a quarter rank, but always to remain, when the squadron is in column of files, quarter rank, or any other telling, *on the flank*; when in line, immediately before the standard advanced two horses lengths.

Particular
attention
of the com-
manding
officer of
squadron,
when in file
or column.

He will observe the reason for his being on the flank of the squadron, when in the above mentioned situations, is, when in file to make the front and rear rank ride together in a perfect dress, making the files *gradually*, not by *sudden movements*, take up their proper distance from each other; when they are halted, or the pace altered from the gallop to the trot, or from the trot to walk, retain their horses, and bring them to the pace ordered; also when ordered to increase the pace, to make each man take it at the same moment; and at the halt make each file perfectly *steady*, and in the *niciest* accuracy

accuracy of covering. He must also, when the squadron is filing either to the front or rear, ride on the inside flank, that is having a squadron on his right, and on his left, keeping however pretty close to his own squadron: he is placed in this situation in order to assist the leading file in preserving the proper interval.

Command-
ing officer's
post in file
or column.

When the squadron is ordered to form the line from file, he must make each file form in succession, and come determinedly up to his ground, without *passing* his horse; to effect which each man should make his horse form a small section of the circle, by going a little to the rear of the file who forms immediately before him, and then turning his horse, either the right or left, as may be required, come straight into his place.

Command-
ing officer's
particular
attention
to the for-
mation
from file to
line.

When the squadron is in column of quarter ranks, the commanding officer should make the officers of his squadron commanding them, cover to the pivot flank, preserve their proper distance from each other, and keep their men all dressed to the pivot: he should also caution the officer who commands the leading quarter-ranks not to close, or fly from column of direction: in short, his business is to be constantly correcting

His atten-
tion when
the squa-
dron is in
column of
quarter
rank, &c.

such errors as he may perceive in his squadron.

When in line.

The movement of a line of squadrons; whether two, four, or twenty, depends intirely on the officers who command them. They must be at all times in a perfect alinement with the officer who commands the squadron of direction; on them depends also the preservation of the interval. The men of the squadron have nothing to do but to look to the centre of the squadron they belong, to keep it solid, and to make the *center file* always follow the officer who commands the squadron.

But however to assist the commanding officer in the preservation of the interval, he may place an officer on his inward flank, who may occasionally cast his eye to the squadron next to him, and humour the movement by calling right, or left, as may be required, at the same time cautioning the men, by saying, "right (or left) legs to your horse," according to the hand you will throw the squadron to. *

* An officer in the rear of the squadron is, in the opinion of some, better situated for this purpose.

The

The other officers of the squadron must attend also to what has just been pointed out to the commanding officer, and also that their men look to the pivot, are in good dress; and as bad ground or obstacles occur, to direct them how to humour or avoid them; however always taking care to follow the same method adopted by the divisions before them, but on no account to begin the necessary manœuvres till they come on the very same ground the foremost divisions began, and to re-assume their former shape on the same ground also, that the foremost divisions did; thus when necessary to quicken the pace, to pass a narrow defilée of no long continuation, by dashing off in file, not to do it till their division comes on the ground on which the first division commenced, and as above directed to re-form also on the same ground they did.

When the squadron is in line, and moving to the front, the commanding officer must then regulate its movements, and as he perceives the squadron incline inwards, or fly outwards, that is supposing (which must always be the case) that the center file exactly covers him, as he finds
it

it necessary to incline his horse, to that same hand he should order his Squadron to incline, by calling to the men to carry their bridle hands and legs to the flank he means to throw his horse to.

Uniformity of pace absolutely necessary.

The officers are also desired to observe, that the uniformity of pace must be attended to: the gallop, trot, and walk, are three distinct paces, no man, therefore, can be suffered to go any pace, but the one ordered; in charging, the officer will recollect, that there is the *quick gallop* and the *canter*, the canter is the pace to begin at, nor should it be increased without particular orders. The officer must not dash forwards, and then check his horse, he should keep rather in the rear of the Squadron of direction, and regulate his pace by it.

CHAP. XIV.

Of searching a Country.

ALL columns ought to be preceded by an advanced guard, but in a country near the enemy, in order to insure the safety of it, a very strong and respectable one should be formed, particularly if there is any reason to imagine the enemy are ambuscaded, or mean to attack or harraßs you, so as to prevent the completion of the object of your movement. Monsieur Le Comte Drummond de Melford, a most able tactician, has, in a treatise of cavalry published by him, given the following plan for the distribution of an advanced guard, shewing also how to search the country through which the column has to pass.

The advanced guard consisting of 150 file, or 300 men, should turn out an hour before the army it is to protect, in order to arrange them in the following manner.

Form three divisions of 25 file, or 50 men each, officered by a captain, lieutenant, cornet, and quarter master.—Tell them off into files, and into five sections each: let each of these divisions assume the form here described.

Take

Take five file or three sections from each division, give these sections to the command of the lieutenant, cornet, and quarter-master; the captain keeps with the remaining ten file of his division. Each section will then form in the same manner here described for the right, the command of which is given to the lieutenant in four ranks thus :

one man,
two men,
three men,
four men.

The single man should be an active, intelligent fellow; a good sergeant for instance, or a corporal; he should also be possessed of strong nerves, and not easily frightened; for as his business is to examine carefully such places as appear to be likely to be ambuscaded, he will probably be the first who discovers the enemy; on which, he is to halt his horse, and fire his pistol, as a signal of his having done so, which is to be repeated by one of the two men in his rear, and again by one of the three men, and one of the four, who all in this signal halt; this informs the captain, who is with his remaining ten file, which he also halts, that the enemy are discovered, and the spot where they are. Thus the single man should be very cautious not to give the alarm, until he is sure he has discovered them. Each of the three divisions send out three sections each,

each, making nine in all; of ten men, arranged as before described, taking each a different road, separate from each other at least a hundred yards: when any one of the nine leading men gives the signal with his pistol, all the other nine sections must immediately halt. Should, however, the wind prevent its being heard, the captain who commands the division, from which the section was formed that has given the alarm, must dispatch a man to the captain next him, who must not only take care to halt his section, but also give notice of the alarm to his neighbour, that he may do the same.

It is to be observed, that the three sections of each division must be commanded by the two subalterns and the quarter-master, and also that the nine leading men must endeavour to preserve an alignment, this can only be done by unity of pace, for they will be so far asunder as not to see each other: but as the flank divisions, together with their outward sections in particular, must, in order to separate sufficient, describe a circular rout, the pace of the center division and its sections should be slower, or at least should set out a few minutes after the flanking ones.

There must also be a space of at least 300 yards between each rank of the different sections, therefore do not suffer the two men in
the

the 2d rank to march till the single man is advanced 300 yards to the front, nor the 3d rank till the 2d has gained the same ground, nor should the captain and his two sections move till the 4th rank are advanced as far.

The commanding officer of the advanced guard remains with his 300 men to support the searching parties, which he will move when he thinks proper: they should be told off into three divisions, each of which should be again told off in files and sections as the searching party are, that if it is necessary for the advanced guard to form, they may co-operate; half being told off one way, and half another, would in this case cause great confusion.

He should, however, when he hears the signal, ride quickly up to the spot, and reconnoitre before he undertakes any step whatever. He will then be able to judge how to act, either to send intelligence back to the main army, or to scour the country with his own people.

He should also inform the officers commanding the sections of the different signals he will give either for their ranks falling back upon each other till they get to their captain, or for the continuation of the march. Each of these gentlemen should ride up with his 4th file, and in order not to separate too far from the next section upon his right, should, when
woods,

woods, villages, or any intervening object, keep it from his sight, move to the right till he had found it again, and then if necessary alter his direction of march, by galloping up to his single man and ordering him to take a point more to the right or left as required. The right section of all, being that of direction, the officers will constantly *feel* for their several lines of march from the right, humouring the waving of the *section* of direction.

To the captains, the commanding officer should also give directions what to do in case he ordered, or that the enemy drove back the searchers; of that he must be the best judge, and may send up his adjutant with orders, as circumstances may occur.

F I N I S.



